

*8/11/01 Declaration
J. Steptu
8/20/01*

Applicant: Smith et al.

Docket No: TI-25250

Serial No: 09/199,829

Art Unit: 2811

Filed: 11/25/98

Examiner: Eaton, K.

Title: Hydrogen Plasma Photoresist Strip and Polymeric Residue Cleanup
Process for Oxygen-Sensitive Materials

**DECLARATION OF PRIOR INVENTION IN THE UNITED STATES
TO OVERCOME CITED PATENT (37 C.F.R. 1.131)**

Assistant Commissioner of
Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Dear Sir:

1. This declaration is to establish completion of the invention in this application in the United States at a date prior to February 10, 1997, which is the effective date of the cited U.S. Patent to Lin (5,893,748), which was cited by the examiner.
2. The individuals making this declaration are Patricia B. Smith, David B. Aldrich, and Stephen W. Russell, the inventors.
3. To establish the date of the completion of the invention of this application, a true copy of the data obtained from the completed device of the invention is submitted as evidence. This data was obtained in the United States at Texas Instruments Incorporated.
4. Applicants submit that the invention in this application was reduced to practice no later than February 9, 1997, in a number of experiments the results of which are

shown in the pages of the signed laboratory and engineering notebook provided.
February 9, 1997, is a date earlier than the effective date of the reference.

5. As a person signing below:

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Respectfully submitted,



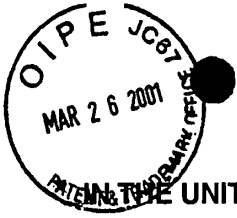
Patricia B. Smith,
Date: 3-6-01



David B. Aldrich
Date: 3/8/01

Stephen W. Russell

Date:



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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Respectfully submitted,

Patricia B. Smith
Date:

David B. Aldrich
Date:



Stephen W. Russell

Date: March 13, 2001